

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2640

To improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. EMANUEL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mrs. CAPPS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check
System, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—TRANSMITTAL OF RECORDS

- Sec. 101. Enhancement of requirement that Federal departments and agencies provide relevant information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.
- Sec. 102. Requirements to obtain waiver.
- Sec. 103. Implementation assistance to States.
- Sec. 104. Penalties for noncompliance.
- Sec. 105. Relief from disabilities program required as condition for participation in grant programs.

TITLE J—FOCUSING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE ON THE
IMPROVEMENT OF RELEVANT RECORDS

- Sec. 201. Continuing evaluations.

TITLE K—GRANTS TO STATE COURT SYSTEMS FOR THE IM-
PROVEMENT IN AUTOMATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF DISPOSI-
TION RECORDS

- Sec. 301. Disposition records automation and transmittal improvement grants.

TITLE L—GAO AUDIT

- Sec. 401. GAO audit.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Approximately 916,000 individuals were
4 prohibited from purchasing a firearm for failing a
5 background check between November 30, 1998, (the
6 date the National Instant Criminal Background
7 Check System (NICS) began operating) and Decem-
8 ber 31, 2004.

9 (2) From November 30, 1998, through Decem-
10 ber 31, 2004, nearly 49,000,000 Brady background
11 checks were processed through NICS.

12 (3) Although most Brady background checks
13 are processed through NICS in seconds, many back-
14 ground checks are delayed if the Federal Bureau of

1 Investigation (FBI) does not have automated access
2 to complete information from the States concerning
3 persons prohibited from possessing or receiving a
4 firearm under Federal or State law.

5 (4) Nearly 21,000,000 criminal records are not
6 accessible by NICS and millions of criminal records
7 are missing critical data, such as arrest dispositions,
8 due to data backlogs.

9 (5) The primary cause of delay in NICS back-
10 ground checks is the lack of—

11 (A) updates and available State criminal
12 disposition records; and

13 (B) automated access to information con-
14 cerning persons prohibited from possessing or
15 receiving a firearm because of mental illness,
16 restraining orders, or misdemeanor convictions
17 for domestic violence.

18 (6) Automated access to this information can
19 be improved by—

20 (A) computerizing information relating to
21 criminal history, criminal dispositions, mental
22 illness, restraining orders, and misdemeanor
23 convictions for domestic violence; or

24 (B) making such information available to
25 NICS in a usable format.

1 (7) Helping States to automate these records
2 will reduce delays for law-abiding gun purchasers.

3 (8) On March 12, 2002, the senseless shooting,
4 which took the lives of a priest and a parishioner at
5 the Our Lady of Peace Church in Lynbrook, New
6 York, brought attention to the need to improve in-
7 formation-sharing that would enable Federal and
8 State law enforcement agencies to conduct a com-
9 plete background check on a potential firearm pur-
10 chaser. The man who committed this double murder
11 had a prior disqualifying mental health commitment
12 and a restraining order against him, but passed a
13 Brady background check because NICS did not have
14 the necessary information to determine that he was
15 ineligible to purchase a firearm under Federal or
16 State law.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18 As used in this Act, the following definitions shall
19 apply:

20 (1) COURT ORDER.—The term “court order”
21 includes a court order (as described in section
22 922(g)(8) of title 18, United States Code).

23 (2) MENTAL HEALTH TERMS.—The terms “ad-
24 judicated as a mental defective”, “committed to a
25 mental institution”, and related terms have the

meanings given those terms in regulations implementing section 922(g)(4) of title 18, United States Code, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) MISDEMEANOR CRIME OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—The term “misdemeanor crime of domestic violence” has the meaning given the term in section 921(a)(33) of title 18, United States Code.

TITLE I—TRANSMITTAL OF RECORDS

SEC. 101. ENHANCEMENT OF REQUIREMENT THAT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES PROVIDE RELEVANT INFORMATION TO THE NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 103(e)(1) of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (18 U.S.C. 922 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “Notwithstanding” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding”;

(2) by striking “On request” and inserting the following:

“(B) REQUEST OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

On request”;

1 (3) by striking “furnish such information” and
2 inserting “furnish electronic versions of the informa-
3 tion described under subparagraph (A)”; and

4 (4) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(C) QUARTERLY SUBMISSION TO ATTOR-
6 NEY GENERAL.—If a department or agency
7 under subparagraph (A) has any record of any
8 person demonstrating that the person falls
9 within one of the categories described in sub-
10 section (g) or (n) of section 922 of title 18,
11 United States Code, the head of such depart-
12 ment or agency shall, not less frequently than
13 quarterly, provide the pertinent information
14 contained in such record to the Attorney Gen-
15 eral.

16 “(D) INFORMATION UPDATES.—The agen-
17 cy, on being made aware that the basis under
18 which a record was made available under sub-
19 paragraph (A) does not apply, or no longer ap-
20 plies, shall—

21 “(i) update, correct, modify, or re-
22 move the record from any database that
23 the agency maintains and makes available
24 to the Attorney General, in accordance

1 with the rules pertaining to that database;
2 or

3 “(ii) notify the Attorney General that
4 such basis no longer applies so that the
5 National Instant Criminal Background
6 Check System is kept up to date.

7 “(E) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Attorney
8 General shall submit an annual report to Con-
9 gress that describes the compliance of each de-
10 partment or agency with the provisions of this
11 paragraph.”.

12 (b) PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF NICS
13 RECORDS.—

14 (1) DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—
15 The Secretary of Homeland Security shall make
16 available to the Attorney General—

17 (A) records, updated not less than quar-
18 terly, which are relevant to a determination of
19 whether a person is disqualified from possessing
20 or receiving a firearm under subsection (g) or
21 (n) of section 922 of title 18, United States
22 Code, for use in background checks performed
23 by the National Instant Criminal Background
24 Check System; and

1 (B) information regarding all the persons
2 described in subparagraph (A) of this para-
3 graph who have changed their status to a cat-
4 egory not identified under section 922(g)(5) of
5 title 18, United States Code, for removal, when
6 applicable, from the National Instant Criminal
7 Background Check System.

8 (2) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—The Attorney
9 General shall—

10 (A) ensure that any information submitted
11 to, or maintained by, the Attorney General
12 under this section is kept accurate and con-
13 fidential, as required by the laws, regulations,
14 policies, or procedures governing the applicable
15 record system;

16 (B) provide for the timely removal and de-
17 struction of obsolete and erroneous names and
18 information from the National Instant Criminal
19 Background Check System; and

20 (C) work with States to encourage the de-
21 velopment of computer systems, which would
22 permit electronic notification to the Attorney
23 General when—

1 (i) a court order has been issued, lift-
2 ed, or otherwise removed by order of the
3 court; or

4 (ii) a person has been adjudicated as
5 mentally defective or committed to a men-
6 tal institution.

7 (c) STANDARD FOR ADJUDICATIONS, COMMITMENTS,
8 AND DETERMINATIONS RELATED TO MENTAL
9 HEALTH.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—No department or agency of
11 the Federal Government may provide to the Attor-
12 ney General any record of an adjudication or deter-
13 mination related to the mental health of a person,
14 or any commitment of a person to a mental institu-
15 tion if—

16 (A) the adjudication, determination, or
17 commitment, respectively, has been set aside or
18 expunged, or the person has otherwise been
19 fully released or discharged from all mandatory
20 treatment, supervision, or monitoring;

21 (B) the person has been found by a court,
22 board, commission, or other lawful authority to
23 no longer suffer from the mental health condi-
24 tion that was the basis of the adjudication, de-
25 termination, or commitment, respectively, or

1 has otherwise been found to be rehabilitated
2 through any procedure available under law; or

3 (C) the adjudication, determination, or
4 commitment, respectively, is based solely on a
5 medical finding of disability, without a finding
6 that the person is a danger to himself or to oth-
7 ers or that the person lacks the mental capacity
8 to manage his own affairs.

9 (2) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN ADJUDICATIONS,
10 DETERMINATIONS, AND COMMITMENTS.—

11 (A) PROGRAM FOR RELIEF FROM DISABIL-
12 ITIES.—Each department or agency of the
13 United States that makes any adjudication or
14 determination related to the mental health of a
15 person or imposes any commitment to a mental
16 institution, as described in subsection (d)(4)
17 and (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, United
18 States Code, shall establish a program that per-
19 mits such a person to apply for relief from the
20 disabilities imposed by such subsections. Relief
21 and judicial review shall be available according
22 to the standards prescribed in section 925(c) of
23 title 18, United States Code.

24 (B) RELIEF FROM DISABILITIES.—In the
25 case of an adjudication or determination related

1 to the mental health of a person or a commit-
2 ment of a person to a mental institution, a
3 record of which may not be provided to the At-
4 torney General under paragraph (1), including
5 because of the absence of a finding described in
6 subparagraph (C) of such paragraph, or from
7 which a person has been granted relief under a
8 program established under subparagraph (A),
9 the adjudication, determination, or commit-
10 ment, respectively, shall be deemed not to have
11 occurred for purposes of subsections (d)(4) and
12 (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, United States
13 Code.

14 (d) INFORMATION EXCLUDED FROM NICS
15 RECORDS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—No department or agency of
17 the Federal Government may make available to the
18 Attorney General, for use by the National Instant
19 Criminal Background Check System (nor may the
20 Attorney General make available to such system),
21 the name or any other relevant identifying informa-
22 tion of any person adjudicated or determined to be
23 mentally defective or any person committed to a
24 mental institution for purposes of assisting the At-
25 torney General in enforcing subsections (d)(4) and

1 (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code,
2 unless such adjudication, determination, or commit-
3 ment, respectively, included a finding that the per-
4 son is a danger to himself or to others or that the
5 person lacks the mental capacity to manage his own
6 affairs.

7 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall
8 apply to names and other information provided be-
9 fore, on, or after the date of the enactment of this
10 Act. Any name or information provided in violation
11 of paragraph (1) before such date shall be removed
12 from the National Instant Criminal Background
13 Check System.

14 **SEC. 102. REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN WAIVER.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 3 years after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, a State shall be eligible to
17 receive a waiver of the 10 percent matching requirement
18 for National Criminal History Improvement Grants under
19 the Crime Identification Technology Act of 1988 (42
20 U.S.C. 14601) if the State provides at least 90 percent
21 of the information described in subsection (c). The length
22 of such a waiver shall not exceed 2 years.

23 (b) STATE ESTIMATES.—

24 (1) INITIAL STATE ESTIMATE.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—To assist the Attorney
2 General in making a determination under sub-
3 section (a) of this section, and under section
4 104, concerning the compliance of the States in
5 providing information to the Attorney General
6 for the purpose of receiving a waiver under sub-
7 section (a) of this section, or facing a loss of
8 funds under section 104, by a date not later
9 than 180 days after the date of the enactment
10 of this Act, each State shall provide the Attor-
11 ney General with a reasonable estimate, as cal-
12 culated by a method determined by the Attor-
13 ney General, of the number of the records de-
14 scribed in subparagraph (C) applicable to such
15 State that concern persons who are prohibited
16 from possessing or receiving a firearm under
17 subsection (g) or (n) of section 922 of title 18,
18 United States Code.

19 (B) FAILURE TO PROVIDE INITIAL ESTI-
20 MATE.—A State that fails to provide an esti-
21 mate described in subparagraph (A) by the date
22 required under such subparagraph shall be in-
23 eligible to receive any funds under section 103,
24 until such date as it provides such estimate to
25 the Attorney General.

1 (C) RECORD DEFINED.—For purposes of
2 subparagraph (A), a record is the following:

3 (i) A record that identifies a person
4 arrested for a crime that is punishable by
5 imprisonment for a term exceeding one
6 year, and for which a record of final dis-
7 position is available electronically or other-
8 wise.

9 (ii) A record that identifies a person
10 for whose arrest a warrant or process has
11 been issued that is valid under the laws of
12 the State involved, as of the date of the es-
13 timate.

14 (iii) A record that identifies a person
15 who is an unlawful user of or addicted to
16 a controlled substance (as such terms “un-
17 lawful user” and “addicted” are respec-
18 tively defined in regulations implementing
19 section 922(g)(3) of title 18, United States
20 Code, as in effect on the date of the enact-
21 ment of this Act) and whose record is not
22 protected from disclosure to the Attorney
23 General under any provision of State or
24 Federal law.

1 (iv) A record that identifies a person
2 who has been adjudicated mentally defec-
3 tive or committed to a mental institution
4 (as determined in regulations implementing
5 section 922(g)(4) of title 18, United States
6 Code, as in effect on the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act) and whose record is not
8 protected from disclosure to the Attorney
9 General under any provision of State or
10 Federal law.

11 (v) A record that is electronically
12 available and that identifies a person who,
13 as of the date of such estimate, is subject
14 to a court order described in section
15 922(g)(8) of title 18, United States Code.

16 (vi) A record that is electronically
17 available and that identifies a person con-
18 victed in any court of a misdemeanor crime
19 of domestic violence, as defined in section
20 921(a)(33) of title 18, United States Code.

21 (2) SCOPE.—The Attorney General, in deter-
22 mining the compliance of a State under this section
23 or section 104 of this Act for the purpose of grant-
24 ing a waiver or imposing a loss of Federal funds,
25 shall assess the total percentage of records provided

1 by the State concerning any event occurring within
2 the prior 30 years, which would disqualify a person
3 from possessing a firearm under subsection (g) or
4 (n) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code.

5 (3) CLARIFICATION.—Notwithstanding para-
6 graph (2), States shall endeavor to provide the Na-
7 tional Instant Criminal Background Check System
8 with all records concerning persons who are prohib-
9 ited from possessing or receiving a firearm under
10 subsection (g) or (n) of section 922 of title 18,
11 United States Code, regardless of the elapsed time
12 since the disqualifying event.

13 (c) ELIGIBILITY OF STATE RECORDS FOR SUBMIS-
14 SION TO THE NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACK-
15 GROUND CHECK SYSTEM.—

16 (1) REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—From information col-
18 lected by a State, the State shall make elec-
19 tronically available to the Attorney General
20 records relevant to a determination of whether
21 a person is disqualified from possessing or re-
22 ceiving a firearm under subsection (g) or (n) of
23 section 922 of title 18, United States Code, or
24 applicable State law.

1 (B) NICS UPDATES.—The State, on being
2 made aware that the basis under which a record
3 was made available under subparagraph (A)
4 does not apply, or no longer applies, shall, as
5 soon as practicable—

6 (i) update, correct, modify, or remove
7 the record from any database that the
8 Federal or State government maintains
9 and makes available to the National In-
10 stant Criminal Background Check System,
11 consistent with the rules pertaining to that
12 database; or

13 (ii) notify the Attorney General that
14 such basis no longer applies so that the
15 record system in which the record is main-
16 tained is kept up to date.

17 (C) CERTIFICATION.—To remain eligible
18 for a waiver under subsection (a), a State shall
19 certify to the Attorney General, not less than
20 once during each 2-year period, that at least 90
21 percent of all information described in subpara-
22 graph (A) has been made electronically avail-
23 able to the Attorney General in accordance with
24 subparagraph (A).

1 (D) INCLUSION OF ALL RECORDS.—For
2 purposes of this paragraph, a State shall iden-
3 tify and include all of the records described
4 under subparagraph (A) without regard to the
5 age of the record.

6 (2) APPLICATION TO PERSONS CONVICTED OF
7 MISDEMEANOR CRIMES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—
8 The State shall make available to the Attorney Gen-
9 eral, for use by the National Instant Criminal Back-
10 ground Check System, records relevant to a deter-
11 mination of whether a person has been convicted in
12 any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic vio-
13 lence. With respect to records relating to such
14 crimes, the State shall provide information specifi-
15 cally describing the offense and the specific section
16 or subsection of the offense for which the defendant
17 has been convicted and the relationship of the de-
18 fendant to the victim in each case.

19 (3) APPLICATION TO PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN
20 ADJUDICATED AS A MENTAL DEFECTIVE OR COM-
21 MITTED TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION.—The State
22 shall make available to the Attorney General, for use
23 by the National Instant Criminal Background Check
24 System, the name and other relevant identifying in-
25 formation of persons adjudicated as mentally defec-

1 tive or those committed to mental institutions to as-
2 sist the Attorney General in enforcing section
3 922(g)(4) of title 18, United States Code.

4 (d) **PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.**—For any information
5 provided to the Attorney General for use by the National
6 Instant Criminal Background Check System, relating to
7 persons prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm
8 under section 922(g)(4) of title 18, United States Code,
9 the Attorney General shall work with States and local law
10 enforcement and the mental health community to establish
11 regulations and protocols for protecting the privacy of in-
12 formation provided to the system. The Attorney General
13 shall make every effort to meet with any mental health
14 group seeking to express its views concerning these regula-
15 tions and protocols and shall seek to develop regulations
16 as expeditiously as practicable.

17 (e) **ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT.**—Not later than
18 January 31 of each year, the Attorney General shall sub-
19 mit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and
20 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives a report on the progress of States in auto-
22 mating the databases containing the information described
23 in subsection (b) and in making that information elec-
24 tronically available to the Attorney General pursuant to
25 the requirements of subsection (c).

1 **SEC. 103. IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE TO STATES.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-
4 able to carry out this section and subject to section
5 102(b)(1)(B), the Attorney General shall make
6 grants to States and Indian tribal governments, in
7 a manner consistent with the National Criminal His-
8 tory Improvement Program, which shall be used by
9 the States and Indian tribal governments, in con-
10 junction with units of local government and State
11 and local courts, to establish or upgrade information
12 and identification technologies for firearms eligibility
13 determinations.

14 (2) GRANTS TO INDIAN TRIBES.—Up to 5 per-
15 cent of the grant funding available under this sec-
16 tion may be reserved for Indian tribal governments,
17 including tribal judicial systems.

18 (b) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—Grants awarded to
19 States or Indian tribes under this section may only be
20 used to—

21 (1) create electronic systems, which provide ac-
22 curate and up-to-date information which is directly
23 related to checks under the National Instant Crimi-
24 nal Background Check System (referred to in this
25 section as “NICS”), including court disposition and
26 corrections records;

1 (2) assist States in establishing or enhancing
2 their own capacities to perform NICS background
3 checks;

4 (3) supply accurate and timely information to
5 the Attorney General concerning final dispositions of
6 criminal records to databases accessed by NICS;

7 (4) supply accurate and timely information to
8 the Attorney General concerning the identity of per-
9 sons who are prohibited from obtaining a firearm
10 under section 922(g)(4) of title 18, United States
11 Code, to be used by the Federal Bureau of Inves-
12 tigation solely to conduct NICS background checks;

13 (5) supply accurate and timely court orders and
14 records of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence
15 for inclusion in Federal and State law enforcement
16 databases used to conduct NICS background checks;
17 and

18 (6) collect and analyze data needed to dem-
19 onstrate levels of State compliance with this Act.

20 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under
21 this section, a State shall certify, to the satisfaction of
22 the Attorney General, that the State has implemented a
23 relief from disabilities program in accordance with section
24 105.

1 (d) CONDITION.—As a condition of receiving a grant
2 under this section, a State shall specify the projects for
3 which grant amounts will be used, and shall use such
4 amounts only as specified. A State that violates this sub-
5 section shall be liable to the Attorney General for the full
6 amount of the grant received under this section.

7 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
9 \$250,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through
10 2010.

11 (f) USER FEE.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation
12 shall not charge a user fee for background checks pursu-
13 ant to section 922(t) of title 18, United States Code.

14 **SEC. 104. PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.**

15 (a) ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 31
17 of each year, the Attorney General shall submit to
18 the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and
19 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of
20 Representatives a report on the progress of the
21 States in automating the databases containing infor-
22 mation described under sections 102 and 103, and
23 in providing that information pursuant to the re-
24 quirements of sections 102 and 103.

1 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to the De-
3 partment of Justice, such funds as may be necessary
4 to carry out paragraph (1).

5 (b) PENALTIES.—

6 (1) DISCRETIONARY REDUCTION.—During the
7 2-year period beginning 3 years after the date of en-
8 actment of this Act, the Attorney General may with-
9 hold not more than 3 percent of the amount that
10 would otherwise be allocated to a State under sec-
11 tion 506 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
12 Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3756) if the State
13 provides less than 60 percent of the information re-
14 quired to be provided under sections 102 and 103.

15 (2) MANDATORY REDUCTION.—After the expi-
16 ration of the period referred to in paragraph (1), the
17 Attorney General shall withhold 5 percent of the
18 amount that would otherwise be allocated to a State
19 under section 506 of the Omnibus Crime Control
20 and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3756), if
21 the State provides less than 90 percent of the infor-
22 mation required to be provided under sections 102
23 and 103.

24 (3) WAIVER BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The At-
25 torney General may waive the applicability of para-

1 graph (2) to a State if the State provides substantial
2 evidence, as determined by the Attorney General,
3 that the State is making a reasonable effort to com-
4 ply with the requirements of sections 102 and 103.

5 (c) REALLOCATION.—Any funds that are not allo-
6 cated to a State because of the failure of the State to com-
7 ply with the requirements of this title shall be reallocated
8 to States that meet such requirements.

9 **SEC. 105. RELIEF FROM DISABILITIES PROGRAM REQUIRED**
10 **AS CONDITION FOR PARTICIPATION IN**
11 **GRANT PROGRAMS.**

12 (a) PROGRAM DESCRIBED.—A relief from disabilities
13 program is implemented by a State in accordance with this
14 section if the program—

15 (1) permits a person who, pursuant to State
16 law, has been adjudicated as described in subsection
17 (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code,
18 or has been committed to a mental institution, to
19 apply to the State for relief from the disabilities im-
20 posed by subsections (d)(4) and (g)(4) of such sec-
21 tion by reason of the adjudication or commitment;

22 (2) provides that a State court, board, commis-
23 sion, or other lawful authority shall grant the relief,
24 pursuant to State law and in accordance with the
25 principles of due process, if the circumstances re-

1 garding the disabilities referred to in paragraph (1),
2 and the person's record and reputation, are such
3 that the person will not be likely to act in a manner
4 dangerous to public safety and that the granting of
5 the relief would not be contrary to the public inter-
6 est; and

7 (3) permits a person whose application for the
8 relief is denied to file a petition with the State court
9 of appropriate jurisdiction for a de novo judicial re-
10 view of the denial.

11 (b) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE RELIEF FROM CER-
12 TAIN DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO FIREARMS.—If,
13 under a State relief from disabilities program implemented
14 in accordance with this section, an application for relief
15 referred to in subsection (a)(1) of this section is granted
16 with respect to an adjudication or a commitment to a men-
17 tal institution, the adjudication or commitment, as the
18 case may be, is deemed not to have occurred for purposes
19 of subsections (d)(4) and (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18,
20 United States Code.

1 **TITLE J—FOCUSING FEDERAL**
2 **ASSISTANCE ON THE IM-**
3 **PROVEMENT OF RELEVANT**
4 **RECORDS**

5 **SEC. 201. CONTINUING EVALUATIONS.**

6 (a) **EVALUATION REQUIRED.**—The Director of the
7 Bureau of Justice Statistics (referred to in this section
8 as the “Director”) shall study and evaluate the operations
9 of the National Instant Criminal Background Check Sys-
10 tem. Such study and evaluation shall include compilations
11 and analyses of the operations and record systems of the
12 agencies and organizations necessary to support such Sys-
13 tem.

14 (b) **REPORT ON GRANTS.**—Not later than January
15 31 of each year, the Director shall submit to Congress
16 a report containing the estimates submitted by the States
17 under section 102(b).

18 (c) **REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES.**—Not later than
19 January 31 of each year, the Director shall submit to Con-
20 gress, and to each State participating in the National
21 Criminal History Improvement Program, a report of the
22 practices of the States regarding the collection, mainte-
23 nance, automation, and transmittal of information rel-
24 evant to determining whether a person is prohibited from
25 possessing or receiving a firearm by Federal or State law,

1 by the State or any other agency, or any other records
2 relevant to the National Instant Criminal Background
3 Check System, that the Director considers to be best prac-
4 tices.

5 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
7 necessary for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2010
8 to complete the studies, evaluations, and reports required
9 under this section.

10 **TITLE K—GRANTS TO STATE**
11 **COURT SYSTEMS FOR THE IM-**
12 **PROVEMENT IN AUTOMATION**
13 **AND TRANSMITTAL OF DIS-**
14 **POSITION RECORDS**

15 **SEC. 301. DISPOSITION RECORDS AUTOMATION AND**
16 **TRANSMITTAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.**

17 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From amounts made
18 available to carry out this section, the Attorney General
19 shall make grants to each State, consistent with State
20 plans for the integration, automation, and accessibility of
21 criminal history records, for use by the State court system
22 to improve the automation and transmittal of criminal his-
23 tory dispositions, records relevant to determining whether
24 a person has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of
25 domestic violence, court orders, and mental health adju-

1 dications or commitments, to Federal and State record re-
2 positories in accordance with sections 102 and 103 and
3 the National Criminal History Improvement Program.

4 (b) GRANTS TO INDIAN TRIBES.—Up to 5 percent
5 of the grant funding available under this section may be
6 reserved for Indian tribal governments for use by Indian
7 tribal judicial systems.

8 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts granted under this
9 section shall be used by the State court system only—

10 (1) to carry out, as necessary, assessments of
11 the capabilities of the courts of the State for the au-
12 tomation and transmission of arrest and conviction
13 records, court orders, and mental health adjudica-
14 tions or commitments to Federal and State record
15 repositories; and

16 (2) to implement policies, systems, and proce-
17 dures for the automation and transmission of arrest
18 and conviction records, court orders, and mental
19 health adjudications or commitments to Federal and
20 State record repositories.

21 (d) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
22 under this section, a State shall certify, to the satisfaction
23 of the Attorney General, that the State has implemented
24 a relief from disabilities program in accordance with sec-
25 tion 105.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General
3 to carry out this section \$125,000,000 for each of the fis-
4 cal years 2008 through 2010.

5 **TITLE L—GAO AUDIT**

6 **SEC. 401. GAO AUDIT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
8 United States shall conduct an audit of the expenditure
9 of all funds appropriated for criminal records improve-
10 ment pursuant to section 106(b) of the Brady Handgun
11 Violence Prevention Act (Public Law 103–159) to deter-
12 mine if the funds were expended for the purposes author-
13 ized by the Act and how those funds were expended for
14 those purposes or were otherwise expended.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date
16 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
17 submit a report to Congress describing the findings of the
18 audit conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

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